

Remarks/Arguments

The Final Office Action mailed March 11, 2010 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Initially, applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the time and courtesy in conducting a personal interview with the inventors on July 20, 2010. Claim 16 has been amended pursuant to the discussions during the interview. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 16 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. Applicants note that amendments to independent claim 16 have been made in this response.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 16, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In this rejection, it is the term “optionally” in the claim which is causing the problem. As such, claim 16 has been amended to delete the term “optionally”.

Claims 16, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, applicant has deleted the term “optionally” from the claim.

Claims 16, 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response to this rejection, applicant has delete “optionally” from claim 16 and has amended the same to correct “a opposed end” to recite “an opposed end”.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, and 16 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over German Document DE 2410976 (hereinafter “German Document”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,558,085 to Hall (hereinafter ‘Hall’).

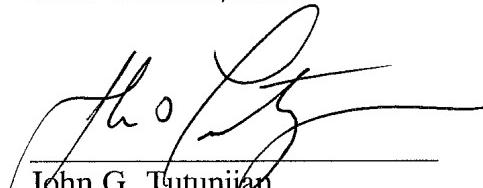
As discussed and agreed to during the personal interview conducted on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, applicant has amended claim 16 in accordance with those discussions

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims set forth in the Office Action of March 11, 2010 be withdrawn, that pending claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 16 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

A three month extension and corresponding fees have been submitted with the filing of this response. It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicants’ representatives Deposit Account No.50-1433.

Respectfully submitted,

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